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SR-15-16-35 BAPC

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BUDGET AND ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SR-15-16-35 BAPC

Recommends that priority registration status be given to undergraduate students who are enrolled in the Student Support Services TRiO Program (SSS). Approximately 200 students receive services from SSS at any given time.

RATIONALE

Student Support Services (SSS), housed within Academic Affairs, is a federally administered component of the U.S. Department of Education's TRiO programs. SSS provides event-based programs, academic advising, counseling, and learning communities in order to assist students in building skills for academic success. Although all students served by this program are economically disadvantaged, first-generation, or disabled, many students in the program meet more than one of these criteria. Recipients of SSS benefits are carefully selected through an application and interview process and an initial meeting at new student orientation—a lengthy process undertaken to select the most highly motivated students who need the program's benefits.

As participants, SSS students agree by contract to:

- attend SSS sponsored activities, workshops, or enrichments,
- meet weekly with SSS counselor/advisor,
- enroll in SSS designated Learning Community or Supplemental Instruction courses,
- complete job shadowing hours for potential career selection,
- utilize referral resources from SSS counselor, and
- serve in leadership roles as peer mentors.

We recommend that SSS students be granted priority registration privileges in order to better facilitate the integration of their work/personal schedules with their course schedules. Because many students face the prospect of going to college without sufficient financial resources, most SSS students must work to support themselves and their respective families while attending college, with a significant number of these students working full-time hours on top of their academic responsibilities. Low-income, first generation students must manage a very real divide between their working/personal lives and their academic lives, often without the support or college-going expertise of their families and their cultural environment. Students receiving SSS services also include a significant number of especially vulnerable non-traditional students and United States military veterans.

Per information provided by the Office of the Registrar, categories of students eligible for priority registration are (a) students with disabilities (including students in the Autism Training Center and HELP Programs), (b) students in the Honors College, (c) first- and second-year nursing students, (d) freshmen and sophomore athletes (excluding cheerleaders), (e) Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) members, (f) Debate Team members, and (g) BS to MD students.

While Marshall has a disproportionately high number of economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students, a federally mandated maximum of approximately 200 students receive services from SSS at a given time. Because a number of SSS students are currently receiving priority registration based on another approved category as outlined above, granting SSS students priority registration privileges would not over inflate the eligible pool.

The Registrar maintains a list of students who are "flagged" as SSS recipients, therefore only minor edits in Banner would be required in order to comply with this recommendation.

Most SSS programs at other institutions across the United States offer priority registration to their student participants. Because of the competitiveness of the U.S. Department of Education's grant funding process,

granting of this status could make the difference for the Marshall SSS program's grant application and the \$1.4 million that this program brings to the university as a cycle of that grant.

FACULTY SENATE CHAIR:

APPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE:

Larry Stibbe DATE: 4/15/2016

DISAPPROVED BY THE
FACULTY SENATE:

DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED:

James A. Smith DATE: 4-26-16

DISAPPROVED:

DATE: _____

COMMENTS:

